

Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Maria Anrrango, and I'm Ecuadorian. I'm a resident of New Britain. I'm a member of Manos Unidas/UACT. I'm in favor of **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.**

I'm going to share with you how not having health insurance has affected me with the cesarean that I had for the birth of my baby. They gave me anesthesia in my back, and because of this I have permanent back pain. When I had insurance for the pregnancy, the doctor told me that I have to be monitored constantly by a doctor. Since I have no health insurance, I can't get any check-ups with the doctor. My back pain is continually very intense. Seeing this in myself, I see that it's very necessary that I have Husky insurance. I also have problems with my vision and dental problems, and I don't have enough money to get all of this checked out, since medicine and doctor's appointments are very expensive in this country. As if that wasn't enough, I also have a 16-year-old son who has been sick on 3 occasions this year with lung problems. Since he doesn't have health insurance, I can't bring him to be checked by a specialist. As a mother, this has caused me lots of worry and frustration, and I've even come to feel depressed. I cry a lot, and because of this I get therapy in a group at Wheeler Clinic, and I barely have enough to pay for this group therapy. I have ended up in debt.

For all these reasons, I'm asking you to please help me obtain health insurance, because I really need it. If we want our community to be well-protected, we need our children and their parents to be well-protected too. Today we support HB6616 with the intention to continue the conversation and to keep on fighting for the health of all.

Thank you for your time,
Maria Anrrango
403 High Street, New Britain, CT